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Valve solenoid

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The invention relates to a valve solenoid comprising a coil and a an iron circuit, which are arranged in a housing which can be employed in areas endangered by explosion.

~~Insns~~ Such valve solenoids have long been known and are evident, for example, from the German utility model 90 03 343 or from the US patent specification 5,138,292.

Widely varying types of ignition protection are known. Types of ignition protection in accordance with IEC or EN (EN 50014 ff.) are: "pressure-resistant encapsulation (EExd)", "enhanced safety (EExe)", "over-pressure encapsulation (EExp)", "intrinsic

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Designs for explosionproof solenoids are also known in which it is not only the "pure" ignition protection types mentioned above which are used but also combinations of these ignition protection types, such as the ignition protection types "cast encapsulation" combined with "enhanced safety" or "pressure-resistant encapsulation" combined with "increased safety".

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This object is achieved according to the invention, in a valve solenoid of the type described at the beginning, in that the coil and the iron circuit are embedded in a casting compound introduced into a housing part, which casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere reaching live parts and is simultaneously used for fixing purposes and electrical insulation (cast encapsulation), and in that connecting elements of the coil are arranged in a housing part which withstands internal pressure in the case of an explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment (pressure-resistant encapsulation).

The major advantage of dividing the housing into two housing parts, one of which satisfies the "cast encapsulation" ignition protection type and the other the "pressure-resistant encapsulation" ignition protection type is that the coil and the iron circuit, in particular the solenoid enclosure sleeve, are not part of the pressure-resistant area. This housing part does not therefore require complicated fitting procedures, which are necessary in the case of pressure-resistant encapsulations because of the fact that the gaps must not allow ignition penetration. The physical size of the solenoid can, in addition, be reduced by the avoidance of such gaps, which must have a specified minimum length.

In addition to its ease of manufacture, such valve solenoids also have the advantage that cast encapsulated coils and iron circuits or solenoid enclosure sleeves are available as standard parts with the result that stockholdings are reduced. Nevertheless, the external cables can be connected in a pressure-resistant, encapsulated area arranged in the second housing part.

Further advantages and features of the invention are the subject matter of the following description and of the drawing representation of an embodiment example of the invention.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 shows a valve solenoid according to the invention in an exploded view and

Fig. 2 shows a sectional view of the valve solenoid, according to the invention, shown in Fig. 1.

### A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A valve solenoid, which is shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, comprises a housing 10, which is subdivided into two housing parts 11, 12.

A coil 30 and a an iron circuit 31 are embedded in a casting compound 20 in the housing part 12, which satisfies the "cast encapsulation, EExm" ignition protection type. The coil has a through-opening 32 for holding an armature, by means of which a valve can be actuated, in a manner known per se, in an environment endangered by explosion. Electrical connecting elements 41, which protrude beyond the casting compound 20 which seals the housing part 12 at its end, are also embedded in the casting compound 20. The casting compound 20 is used to exclude an explosive atmosphere as well as for fixing purposes and electrical insulation.

These connecting elements 41 for the connection of electrical cables for activating the coil 30 are arranged in the other housing part 11, which satisfies the "pressure-resistant encapsulation" ignition protection type. External cables are introduced by means of an opening 14 into the interior area of the pressure-resistant encapsulated housing part 11.

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The housing part 11 is closed at its end by a cap 17. This engages, by means of a protrusion 17a on it, in an end-face opening 18 in the housing in such a way that a predetermined length of the protrusion 17a overlaps the opening 18, which is complementary to the protrusion 17a, so as to form a gap between the protrusion 17a and the opening 18 which is proof against ignition penetration. In addition, a seal 60 can be provided which, in the assembled state, is arranged between the cap 17 and the housing 10.

The housing part 11 is configured in such a way that it resists a pressure, which is standardized, in the case of an explosion of an explosive mixture within it and transmission of the explosion to the vicinity of the housing 10 is prevented.

The advantage of the valve solenoid described above is that the cast encapsulation of the housing part 12, and therefore an explosion-protected valve solenoid which satisfies the combined ignition protection type EExmd (cast encapsulation and pressure-resistant encapsulation), can be manufactured in a simple manner and therefore at low cost.

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